BENGALURU, TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 21 | Humidity 55% Partly cloudy Sensex 60,056 | Nifty 17,743 | Gold 59,763 | Silver 74,773 | Dollar 81.94 | Euro 90.33 | GBP 102.04

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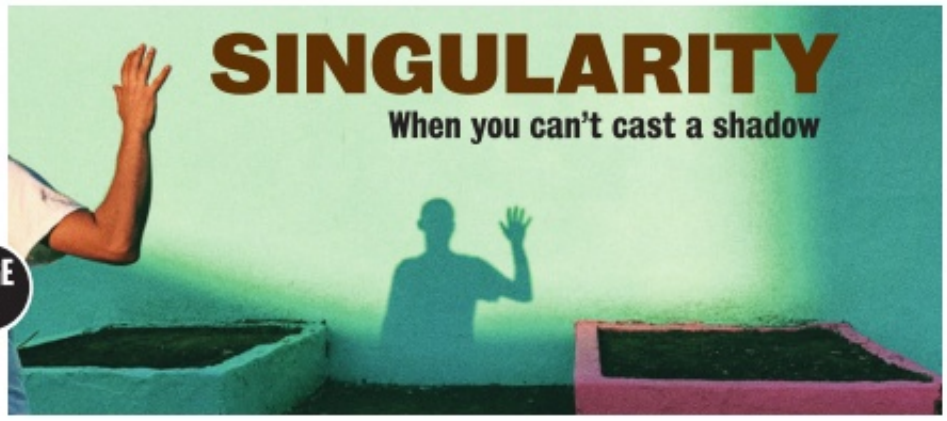

How safe are children commuting to school and back in Bengaluru, BM asked parents, experts

LEARNING THE HARD WAY

'72% of children en route to school were not wearing seatbelts: survey'

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Parents of school-going children BM spoke to complained about the lack of safety of children commuting to school in the city. As per a survey, nearly 72% of children en route to school were not wearing seatbelts.

According to a sample, from a survey conducted in 2021 on school safety, 276 children travelled by school buses, 147 by walking, and 122 in school vans followed by 81 on bikes and 72 in auto-rickshaws; 47% respondents said there were no seat belts.

As per Automotive Industry Standards, from April 2019, school buses should be equipped with a fire detection alarm and fire suppression system. Additionally, there should be a stop signal arm, speed governor, retracting step, and school bus insignia. The passenger door should be opened using a buzzer.

"Safety of children is not being ensured. Typically, there are so many children aboard a school bus; there should be some caretakers on board too. This is crucial, especially in the case of smaller children.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

"Lack of emission control in school buses endangers health and safety of children; health of drivers should be monitored to prevent mishaps — Lalithamba, parent

Bengaluru caught in a power struggle

Citizens continue to face disruptions caused by frequent power cuts this summer

| Iffath.Fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru, also known as the Silicon Valley of India, is a rapidly growing city that sees a high demand for electricity, especially during the summer months. However, the city's power supply often falls short of the demand, resulting in frequent power cuts. Many residents from different localities are having sleepless nights with no power supply during the nights and even in the afternoon for long hours.

During summer, when the temperature soars, the demand for electricity increases as people rely heavily on air conditioning and other cooling appliances. Power cuts can last anywhere from a few minutes to several hours, causing inconvenience to the residents and disrupting their daily routines.

To tackle the issue of power cuts, the state government has adopted various measures such as setting up new power plants, improving transmission lines, encouraging the use of renewable energy and so on. However, the problem persists — Bengalureans continue to face disruptions caused by frequent power cuts, especially during summer.

Residents from Whitefield, Frazer Town, Jayanagar, Malleswaram, Kasavanahalli,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

Now, you can sound the way you want!

Voice alteration surgeries are increasingly finding favour among citizens

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People choose to undergo voice modulation surgeries to change position of vocal cords, reduce coughing, and changing voice during gender conversion

Plastic or facial surgeries are common in today's world. However, city doctors say that there is now an increase in number of patients who want to 'tweak' their voices through surgery.

Recently, a police constable visited a doctor stating that he was finding it difficult to work as a cop as his voice was not very powerful and people were not listening to him. Now, after the surgery, he is happy that his voice is 'commanding'.

Dr Manjunath MK, Consultant ENT surgeon and Laryngologist, SPARSH Hospital, performed a type three thyroplasty on the constable, resulting in a low pitched, more masculine voice. "We had a patient from Yemen who also had a feminine voice and wanted it corrected. We performed a thyroplasty on the patient, and when he called home, his wife disconnected the call thinking it was someone else. The patient had to do a video call and show her that it was him. In another case, a 60-year-old woman used to sing folk songs but, after thyroidectomy, she was unable to. Her voice was a little husky and obviously her singing voice was completely gone. These surgeries are usually done under local anaesthesia. We tuned the voice then and there itself, during the surgery. So, once I did the medialization thyroplasty, she started singing and was happy with it. Her main concern was if she would be able to sing the folk songs or not," he explained.

Thyroplasty alters the voice. In simple terms, it is changing the voice. According to an expert, if there is vocal cord palsy, they can correct that. If the voice is feminine, they can masculinise it or if it is a masculine voice and they need to be in feminine, they can do that as well. It is called pitch altering as well as improving the tone of the voice. It is basically, surgery on the voice box. It is not that common yet, he said.

Dr Rajendra S Gujjalanavar, HOD & Senior Consultant of Plastic Surgery at Sakra World Hospital, explains that people undergo voice modulation therapy for various reasons, such as changing the position of the vocal cord, reducing coughing, and changing voice during gender conversion.

Dr Prateek Nayak, Consultant of ENT Surgery at Aster CMI Hospital, Bengaluru, adds that thyroplasty surgeries can correct voice or speech issues resulting from trauma or gender change. Patients have reported significant improvements in voice and quality of life after undergoing thyroplasty. In some cases of spasmodic dysphonia, resistant cases responded to lateralization thyroplasty.

Dr Manjunath clarifies that thyroplasty is a surgical procedure that alters the voice. There are four different types of thyroplasty, including medialisation thyroplasty, type 1 thyroplasty, type 2 thyroplasty, and type 3 thyroplasty.

Medialisation thyroplasty can improve the voice of someone who has lost their voice after thyroidectomy.

Type 2 thyroplasty can correct squeaky or strained voices resulting from spasmodic dysphonia.

Type 3 thyroplasty can correct feminine voices and make them more masculine, while type 4 thyroplasty can make masculine voices more feminine. These surgeries are usually performed under local anesthesia and can take between 45 minutes to 2.5 hours, depending on the type of thyroplasty. Patients can usually go home the next day and experience immediate changes in their voice.

Powerless in heat and humidity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bellandur, HSR Layout, HBR Layout, Deverabeesanahalli, Hennur, Chikkanayakanahalli, Kithaganur, Chikkabanavara, Ejipura and many other localities, complained of frequent power outages, BM has learnt. A lot of the residents have even made complaints to the BESCOM helpline number 1912 or on BESCOM's social media handles.

Vikram, a resident of Malleswaram said: "We have been facing power cuts multiple times daily. In the afternoons there is no power for two hours and again the same repeats during the evenings. In this humid weather it is very difficult without electricity. How many times do we have to keep complaining to BESCOM?"

Rajesh K from Kasavanahalli told BM that every night the power goes in his home: "Four day ago, we didn't have electricity for three hours in the night until 5:00 am in the morning. We could not sleep. It is very difficult for children to sleep too. Even generators will stop working after the battery runs out. The line 1912 is always congested; calls don't get through. Often there is no response on Twitter handles too."

Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said: "Bescom like any other agency should have a proper audit and maintenance of their infrastructure. The summer is here and the demand for power is huge; usually there is good supply from the grid; they need to maintain their equipment. Bengaluru, being an IT hub and silicon valley, needs better power transmission and distribution for uninterrupted supply through the year."

BM tried contacting BESCOM for a comment but they were unresponsive.

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How safe are kids, en route to school

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The caretakers should ensure the safety of children while boarding and de-boarding the bus. The doors of the bus are not proper and sometimes don't close properly. As far as I have seen, the buses have not been replaced for the past 10 years or so. Condition of the buses need to be monitored and fire safety measures should be ensured," said a parent.

Another parent noted that it's not just buses, it's not safe for children to commute on bicycles or walk to school. "Due to the lack of footpaths and debris, it's difficult for children to use the footpath continuously. School buses, on the other hand, can be seen using one-ways in the opposite direction risking the lives of children. In some cases, buses are overloaded and beyond the permitted capacity. Drivers tend to not wear seatbelts and use their mobile phones while driving. The lack of emission control on these buses endangers the health and safety of children. In addition, the health of drivers should be monitored to prevent mishaps," said Lalithamba, a parent.

Child rights activists are of the view that there should be a child protection policy in schools. "Anyone interacting with children should have a child protection policy. Establishments should give an undertaking. On the roads, traffic wardens should help children cross the streets. Child safety measures should be taught to children in schools. Government should ensure that such policies are enforced and licences are issued based on policies," said Nina P Nayak, former chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Bengaluru.

Karuna of Save Life Foundation told BM that a child restraint system (CRS) is required in buses: "As per the Motor Vehicles Act, the child can wear CRS or seatbelt. But there should be more clarity on the age group applicability of CRS and its usage. In terms of two-wheelers, there needs to be an adequate supply of child helmets. Buses should travel within the specific speed limit in school zones and pick-up and drop areas need to be made safer. There needs to be stronger enforcement of the rules; other stakeholders involved should also do their part."

"Whoever drives a motor vehicle or causes or allows a motor vehicle to be driven with a child who, not having attained the age of fourteen years, is not secured by a safety belt or a child restraint system shall be punishable with a fine of one thousand rupees," as per Section 194B of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Yet another fatal blow:

Cyclists shouldn't be collateral damage

...Of roads designed for cars, say activists stressing on need to create safer roads for those using green mode of transport

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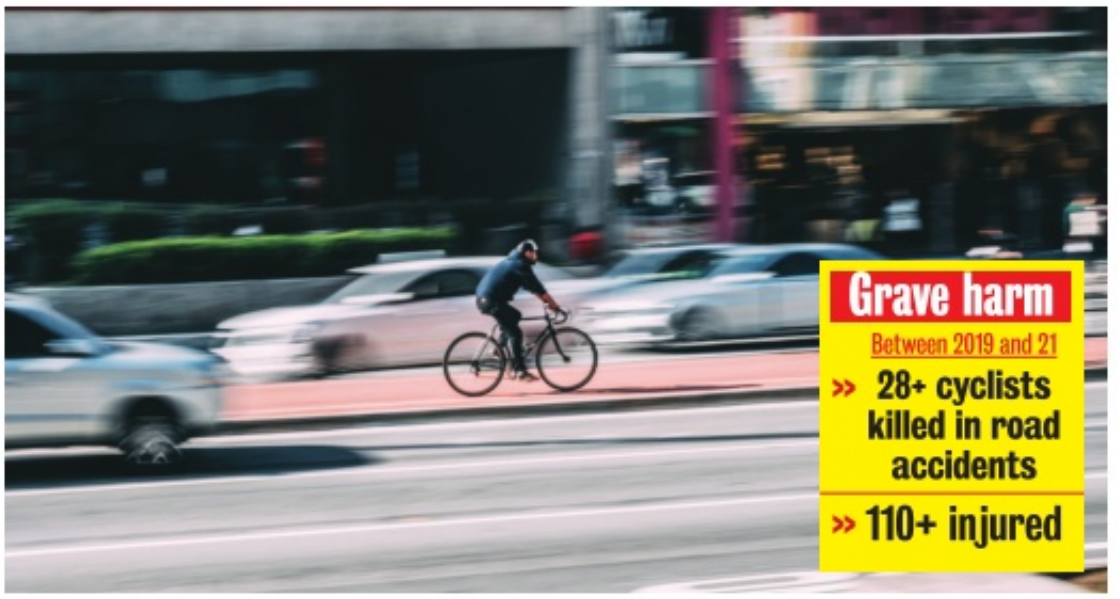
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A cyclist was killed after a speeding SUV knocked him down on the Kempegowda International Airport Road on Sunday morning, once again bringing into focus the lack of safety for cyclists in the city. The deceased has been identified as Nagraj, 47. Nagraj was on his way from Hebbal after attending a housewarming ceremony when the SUV hit his cycle from behind around 7 am. Though he was rushed to a nearby private hospital, he was declared brought dead.

Bicycle mayor of the city Sathya Shankaran called on the authorities to make provisions for the inclusion of cycle lanes while ruing the lack of facilities for cyclists in the city.

"The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is working on upgrading high-density corridors, including on the Outer Ring Road (ORR). They must include cycle lanes as a part of the project," he said.

He noted that Hebbal and the areas around it have been rapidly developing, resulting in new residences and offices, but the authorities have not bothered to introduce dedicated pedestrian pathways or cycle lanes. "We need dedicated, segregated, and uninterrupted footpaths and cycle tracks below the flyovers. On all roads to come up in the future, we need to ensure space for cycle lanes," he said.



Grave harm

Between 2019 and 21

» 28+ cyclists killed in road accidents

» 110+ injured

Nihar Thakkar, a cyclist who helped build the first artificial intelligence and sensor-based bicycle counter installed in Bengaluru, said focus must be on building segregated infrastructure on a large scale to ensure safety as it currently exists only in scattered stretches, spanning a handful of kilometres and without continuity. He added that this infrastructure needs to be maintained and rules must be enforced, in order to prevent them from being encroached upon by vehicles. "The number of personal vehicles and the amount of congestion we witness is not the sustainable way forward. Building cycle lanes and reliable public transportation systems is important," he said.

> **"Such deaths are becoming a norm in our cities; and they will keep happening if a city and its road infra are designed in a car-centric manner instead of keeping people in mind**

"Such deaths are becoming a norm in our cities. And sadly, such accidents will keep happening if a city and its infrastructure are designed in a car-centric manner instead of keeping people in mind," said Avinash Chanchal, a public transport enthusiast, adding that the rise in such incidents is alarming.

Chanchal was also of the opinion that segregated lanes would minimise the risk of such incidents, explaining that cyclists must be acknowledged by providing them with incentives, for helping the city breathe even as they endure such grave risks on the road.

Over the last few years, the number of cyclists in the city has seen a steady rise. According to Cycle to Work, an application that crowdsources information in Bengaluru, the usage of cycles for commuting has nearly doubled between 2017 and 2020.

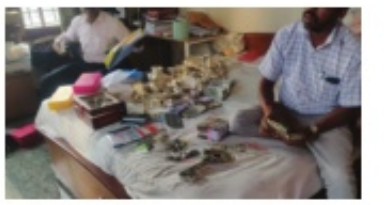
New big cat in town

The Bannerghatta Biological Park expanded its animal family on April 21 with the addition of a male white Royal Bengal Tiger, received from the Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Vandalur, Chennai.

The transfer was made possible through an animal exchange program approved by the Central Zoo Authority in New Delhi. In exchange for the tiger, BBP sent male lion Sheryar, born to Sana and Shankar at BBP in 2020, to Vandalur zoo.

The white Royal Bengal Tiger, born to Bheeshma and Meena and estimated to be around three years old, has been placed in a quarantine area for a few days to allow him to acclimatise to Bengaluru's weather. The tiger is under constant observation during this period. **BMB**

BBMP official's property raided



The residence of the Assistant Director of Town Planning, BBMP, was raided by Karnataka Lokayukta and assets worth crores of rupees were found.

Gangadharaiah's house was raided after a public complaint.

Lokayukta officials raided his residences in seven spots. In total, he owns 12 flats and houses. He owns houses in Yelahanka, JC Nagar and Hebbal. Officials also found that he owned a 5-acre land worth Rs 1.5 crore in Nelamangala, and property worth Rs 3.65 crore in Malleshwaram. Gold/jewellery costing Rs 1 crore and Rs 1,40,00,000 in cash were recovered from three locations. **BMB**

Even your shadow won't be with you today

It's Zero Shadow Day today, a chance for students, scientists to observe about this rare celestial phenomenon

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru will witness a rare celestial event called "Zero Shadow Day" on Monday. During this event, the sun's position will be directly overhead, resulting in no shadows being cast on the earth's surface. This phenomenon occurs twice a year and on April 25, the phenomenon will occur at 12.17 pm.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru is hosting a workshop for students to observe the phenomenon. The workshop will include an interactive session with scientists, observation of the surface features of the sun through a telescope, and solar scoring to observe sunspots. The phenomenon can be observed on April 25 or September 18 in Bengaluru.

According to Dr MY Anand, a Senior Scientific Officer at the planetarium, Zero Shadow Day is also useful for calculating the speed and circumference of the earth. Over 2,000 years ago, philosopher Eratosthenes determined the earth's size by observing this phenomenon and calculating it.

"At Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, we will be collaborating with other science centres across Karnataka and other places like Chennai, Bhopal, and Mangaluru to find out the speed and circumference of the earth. Students will carry out the experiment with the help of scientists, and we will keep exhibits that will help one to observe the Zero Shadow Day," said Dr Anand.

The event is observed by comparing the sun's relative position at two different locations on the earth's surface.

Experiment to do

Dr Anand explained, "It is a famous experiment, where the shadow will be observed at two places. For instance, in Bengaluru, we will be observing when the shadow event will take place. And at the same time, the group at Bhopal science centre will measure the shadow length, wherein Zero Shadow Day will not be present there, but the length of the shadow will be measured. Thereafter we will calculate the distance between Bhopal and Bengaluru and find the circumference of the Earth."

Can't wait to see the restored lake

90% of desilting is completed at Kaggadasapura Lake, STP to be completed by September

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The much-delayed desilting of Kaggadasapura Lake in CV Raman Nagar Assembly constituency is nearing completion. If all goes well, the desilting is expected to be completed by this month's end.

Desilting of the lake was taken up by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in March, 2021 at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore. The work was supposed to be completed in six months but heavy rain and legal complications delayed it.

"Desilting of Kaggadasapura Lake will help more than one lakh residents in the vicinity. It will increase the ground water table thus recharging many borewells around the water body. Desilting work is in progress. Development of pathways and fencing will be taken up shortly. It is being developed on par with Byrasandra Lake which is receiving only rain water. Stone pitching work is also in progress," said S Raghu, the incumbent MLA of CV Raman Nagar.

Many people who visit Kaggadasapura Lake for a walk in the morning and evening are happy with the progress of the ongoing desilting of the lake that spreads over 47 acres. Once, this lake was dubbed as Bellandur Lake in the making because of silt, sewage, weeds, bad odour and froth. Former Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Bengaluru Development Dr G Parameshwara had visited the lake in June, 2018 and directed the authorities concerned to construct a sewage treatment plant (STP) to prevent flow of sewage into the lake.

"I am very happy to see all the weeds and silt removed from the water body. I want the BBMP authorities to ensure completion of the desilting work before the onset of the monsoon," said Suresh Gowda, a resident of the area.

Furthermore, residents demanded the BBMP authorities to direct the contractor to engage more manpower, earthmovers, and trucks to transport the silt to the designated place.

Naveen K, another resident, told Bangalore Mirror that the desilting and development of pathways should be completed as early as possible for the benefit of hundreds of people who visit Kaggadasapura Lake every day. "The desilting of the lake is already delayed. I want the authorities concerned to complete all the pending works as early as possible," he said.

Desilting of Kaggadasapura Lake is expected to raise ground water table

> **"I am very happy to see all the weeds and silt removed from the lake. I want the BBMP to ensure completion of the work before the onset of the monsoon** –Suresh Gowda

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (lakes) Nithya said that 90 per cent of the desilting work is completed. "I expect desilting of the lake to be completed by the end of this month. The development of pathways is also in progress. Fencing of the lake will be taken up shortly. We may need a few months to complete all the developmental works at the lake," she informed.

However, some of the visitors have expressed their concern over the delay in completing the construction of the STP on the west side of the water body. They complained that the construction of the STP was postponed once, and now its progress is not up to the mark.

The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has taken up the construction of a 5-minimal liquid discharge (MLD) sewage treatment plant at an estimated cost of Rs 26.38 crore. The construction of the STP is supposed to be completed by September, 2023. "We may need nine more months to complete the construction of the STP," said BWSSB Chief Engineer (wastewater management) Gangadhar BC.

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Problems in your area?
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Clean it
Jayanagar

The garbage in front of 9th Main, 5th Block, Jayanagar gives a bad look to passersby. The BBMP authorities should keep the road clean as it is termed as a model road.

Blocked gym
Kaval Byrasandra

The gym facility previously provided by BBMP for public use at the P and T Quarters in Kaval Byrasandra has been privatised, and public access is now prohibited. The gym is now lying idle, which is a waste of public money by the government.

There will be no JUMBO Circus Shows today due to the sad demise of our founder Gemini SHANKARAN

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Cubbon Park: Rules are pointless?

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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A group of Bengalureans have recently launched an online campaign opposing the 'strict rules' imposed at Cubbon Park. The campaign has already received 3,500 signatures, with supporters arguing that instead of imposing rules, efforts should be focused on maintaining cleanliness in the park. The campaigners believe that the imposed regulations are more akin to moral policing, disguised under the pretense of safety. They suggest that Cubbon Park should have more waste bins and clear instructions so that visitors can dispose of their food waste in segregated bins.

However, the issue has divided opinion, with some park-goers supporting the Horticulture Department's crackdown on couples behaving intimately in the park.

AJIT MATTHEW

A BM reader points out litter at Cubbon Park

These individuals argue that such behavior makes it difficult for them to walk around the park.

Earlier, Bangalore Mirror had reported as to how security guards have been spotted at Cubbon Park, using megaphones to caution and alert young people to behave appropriately while sitting around trees or on benches.

Bangalore Mirror
PDA patrol at Cubbon Park

BM's report on April 3 about watch on PDA

The security guards explained that they were provided with four megaphones by the Horticulture Department to help them maintain decorum in the park. Horticulture department officials contended that measures were taken after many people, particularly families with children, have complained about the disturbance caused by unruly behaviour in the park. Another security guard had earlier expressed concern that at the Monkey Park in the northern area of Cubbon Park, young people allegedly try to find secluded spots. Opposed to the activists' complaints, the officials say that they are emphasising the importance of ensuring visitors' safety.

BM reader Ajit Matthew said, "The litter can be seen at the park, near the MG Road gate on Monday. This is clear that the draconian rules have no effect; in fact the bins are empty. This was disgusting."

There is just no right of way here!

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Incomplete work on the Smart City and TenderSure projects on Avenue Road -- located in the heart of Bengaluru city -- has adversely affected business transactions and caused problems for the public and vehicles. Some shopkeepers have encroached upon the footpaths and obstructed the movement of people.

Avenue Road is a commercial lane of Bengaluru with many shops, such as clothing stores, bookstores, hotels, home appliances, jewellery, and mobile shops, that sees daily transactions worth hundreds of crores of rupees. Although the Smart City scheme allotted Rs 15 crore for the 950-metre-long Avenue Road, connecting Market to Mysore Bank Circle via Chickpet Circle, three years ago, the work is yet to be completed. BWSSB's pipeline laying and BESCOM's works on the roadside are still pending, resulting in potholes on the road. As a result, pedestrians are forced to walk on the road.

During the last two years, the road has remained closed, causing traders to suffer losses. For instance, a textile shop that used to transact more than Rs 1 lakh daily, saw a decline in business to Rs 10-20,000 when the work started. Now, the opportunity to recover has come.

Some traders have complained about the encroachment of the footpaths, which are meant for pedestrians. Many individuals who have trespassed are conducting business, and action should be taken by BBMP to prevent this, they say. Officials and police have been reluctant to act on this matter, according to Lakshmipathi, a clothing store owner.

Incomplete road work by Smart City authorities on Avenue Road is a nightmare for pedestrians and residents

Sivakumar, a former corporator, pointed out that unscientific work has been done on Avenue Road under the Smart City project. Drainage and ducts have not been constructed properly, leading to sewage water flowing into the road, which has worsened the road conditions.

However, Srinivas K, the Managing Director of Smart City Project, said that most of the work has already been completed, with only minor works remaining, which will be finished within a month. Footpaths have been paved, and vehicle parking is allowed on one side of the road on a daily rotation basis.

Avenue Road is in a state of chaos with no space to walk

Down a rabbit hole

Ejipura residents do not have drinking water supply for more than a month due to shoddy drainage work

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Thanks to the negligence of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) workers engaged in underground drainage (UGD) work in the Ejipura area, a few senior citizens of 20M Cross Road are left without drinking water supply for more than a month now.

In absence of Cauvery water supply, elderlies say they are managing by drawing water from an open well in the area and private borewells; they too have almost dried up.

"I have been managing with water from an open well, which has almost dried up. There is hardly any water in our private borewells that were dug up years ago. A lot of borewells have been dug up by commercial establishments in the area leading to depletion of groundwater," said Janet Yegneswaran, a senior citizen in the area facing the issue.

The water pipelines of Ejipura's 20M Cross Road have been damaged and never repaired, allege residents

According to the residents affected, on March 11, a BWSSB contractor started the work to replace UGD pipes. The contractor, using an earthmover, dug up the full road and damaged water pipelines. Residents say the water pipelines were never restored.

"We have never faced any issue in water supply in this area. Moreover, the recently done UGD chamber, which is in front of my house, started leaking immediately after it was done and also caved in due to shoddy work. The contractor came back and redid the chamber by end of March. It's a small lane and our houses are at the farther end of the road. While they told us that the water line is restored, we have not received water since then," said Devdas, another senior citizen.

Locals also allege that they have paid Rs 6,000 to BWSSB officials concerned just to ensure that water supply resumes in their houses.

"After BWSSB officials inspected the area, they told us that waterpipes are broken. They also informed us that we will have to get the pipes and other materials required to fix the issue. We also paid money to get the work done. However, we are still waiting for the water supply to resume," said Manju Krishna, another resident facing the issue.

Senior citizens say while they even reached out to the higher authorities of the water board, their plea has fallen on deaf ears so far. Residents wrote to the chairman of BWSSB and also received a response stating that the complaint is forwarded to a BWSSB engineer and that the issue will be resolved immediately. The engineer assigned also visited the place and promised to set things right. However, nothing concrete has been done.

Residents also claim that their private borewells have run dry due to the overexploitation of groundwater by commercial establishments in the area. They allege that multiple paying guest facilities in the area have dug borewells up to 1100 ft deep, leading to other private borewells in the area going dry.

They say they are left with no other option but to rely on water tankers in an area that had no water supply issue before this.

"We have been managing with water from an open well and that too has almost dried up. A lot of borewell connections have been given to commercial establishments in the area but broken pipes of residents of the area have not been reconnected. It is a double whammy. Not just the Cauvery water supply interrupted, but our borewells have run dry too. We are ordering water tankers for the first time in our lives. It is a nightmare," said Yegneswaran.

> **"We also paid money to get the work done. However, we are still waiting for the water supply to be resumed**
>
> —Manju Krishna, a resident

When BM reached out to the BWSSB official concerned, they said they were aware of the problem and will be addressing it soon.

"The waterpipe was broken during our UGD work and we are working toward getting it fixed. Water supply in the houses will be retained within this week," said the official.

IN BRIEF

Fare news for quadricycles

The Karnataka Transport Department has fixed the fare rate for quadricycles in Bengaluru, at the behest of the driver unions. Previously, the vehicles were being run at the autorickshaw fare rates.

The quadricycles like Bajaj Qute will operate henceforth at Rs 60 for the first 4 km and Rs 16 for every subsequent km.

In the past, these quadricycles have been operated under auto rickshaws fare structure. Drivers operating these vehicles have been demanding a fare revision due to the higher cost of operation.

"In 2019, when the quadricycles have launched the fares were not fixed. Our drivers had to dependent on Uber for operation. In December 2020, we requested fare revision. After many obstacles, last month, the State Government fixed the fare.

"The measure will allow these drivers to install meters as per the new fare rate," said Tanveer Paasha, President of Ola, Uber Drivers and Owners Union. **BMB**

Kannada actor no more

Kannada Television actor Sampath J Ram has allegedly died by suicide at his home near Bengaluru's Nelamangala on Saturday. The police have registered a case and started an investigation into the matter.

According to police, the actor was suffering from depression for not getting desired opportunities in the Kannada film and serial industry. The actor played important roles in several TV serials and films such as 'Agnisakshi' and 'Sri Balaji Photo Studio'.

Sampath's friend Rajesh Dhruva, who is also an actor, confirmed the news of Sampath's death in a Facebook post.

The post as translated from Kannada reads, "We do not have the strength to bear your parting. So many movies are yet to be made. There's still plenty of time to make your dreams come true. We still have to see you on the big stage. Please come back."

Further details awaited. **ANI**

real estate

PLOTS FOR SALE

INDUSTRIAL PLOTS at HOSUR THALLY road Near TVS LOGISTICS PARK & upcoming BANGALORE SELAM HIGHWAY-6360263267

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Aditi Sharma r/a #9 Venikasree Nilayam, 5th Cross Kalkere Main Road, Sir M V Nagar Kowdenahalli Ramamurthy Nagar Bengaluru-560016 have my name as Aditi Sharma R in educational documents and Aditi Sharma in other documents both the names belong to me, I would prefer Aditi Sharma for all future purposes. Sworn before notary Srinatha D R dated 22/4/23

I, Nefanand Belegadde Krishnappa R/o Miganakodige Belegadde, Thammadavalli Vil Asagodu, Hosakoppa post Koppa, Chikkamagalur 577126 have changed my name to Nefananda Belegadde Krishnappa affidavit Dt.24/04/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, Bengaluru, Presently my camp at Bengaluru

I, ISHRATHUNNISA ABDUL HANNAN W/o Abdul Hannan R/at No. 28, 3rd Floor, 11th Cross, Near Muzzammil Masjid Umar Nagar, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my Name to ISHRATHUNNISA vide affidavit dated: 24/4/2023 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Abhisek Dey, S/o Bikash Chandra Dey, R/o #176 Tharun Residency, 6th Cross Road, Celebrity Paradise Layout, Electronic City Phase 1, Bangalore-560100, have changed my name to Abhishek Dey.

I, Shalini Dharanappa gouar C/O: Rajashekhar Dharanappagoudar, Flat No 103 Axis Mithi Building No 41, 29th Cross 9th Main, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560070, have changed my name to Shalini Dharanappagoudar.

I, Shesha Raghava Manjunatha Nayaka S/o Manjunath S R, R/o G-1, Cmh Hopital Campus, Indiranagar, B'luru-560038 have changed my name to Shesha Ragava Manjunath Nayaka Affidavit Dt.24/04/2023 Notary Ganesh Gowda M V, Bluru

I Antony Francis M F S/O, M A Francis R/o #25, 4th Cross, First Main Road, Sudhamanagar, Bengaluru 560027 have changed my name to Antony Francis Mulakkal Francis for all purposes.

I, Channabasavaiah s/o late Sharanaiah K 628, herohalli new extension, thunganagar, magadi main road Bangalore 560091 have changed my name to Channabasavaiah kala sharanaiah for all purposes.

I, ABDUL KHUYALIQ R/a No.537, 1st Stage, 2nd Block, HBR Layout, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to KHALID SHARIF affidavit dated 18.04.2023 before notary B.S Padma Prasad, Bangalore.

I Smitha Gangadhar D/O, P B Narayanaswamy R/o #17/1, 39th D Main Road, D Group Layout, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560091 have changed my name to Smitha N Swamy

I, Soumyajit Roy, R/o Q1265 Brigade Lakefront, Whitefield, Bangalore-560048, have changed the name of my minor son from Aahiron Roy to Neil Roy.

I Luv Kumar S/o Vipan Kumar R/o Shriram Spandhana Appts, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560037 have changed my name from Luv to Luv Kumar for all future purposes.

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As political party begins, flex confetti is all around

Despite High Court's order to BBMP to take down banners, citizens complain now there is no stopping banners from cropping up at every corner of neighbourhoods

POLL VAULT

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File photo of a road being dug up making a way for installation of cutouts of politicians for a rally

With the Legislative Assembly elections only a few weeks away, banners and flexes of political parties have begun to spring up across localities. They can be found in nooks and corners of neighbourhoods- on electric poles, pedestrian pathways, and clinging to small general stores.

In 2018, the Karnataka High Court directed the municipal body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to take down banners as they acted as a distraction to motorists. Despite this, citizens have consistently pointed out that the flex banners continue to be put up in their neighbourhoods.

Gulba Pasha, an activist who has been advocating for the removal of flex banners, told Bangalore Mirror that the municipal body does not enforce the mandate adequately, citing that he recently tried to file multiple complaints after noticing several flex banners in Banashankari. However, the complaints went unheard.

"It is ironic that it is our elected representatives that are on the banners, for they know the order from the Karnataka High Court does not allow flex banners to be put up," he said.

Furthermore, he claimed that he has received several threat calls for trying to constantly bring down these banners. "They call me from unknown numbers and ask me what the problem is if they put up banners for a week or so," he informed.

He alleged that the municipal body is complicit with political parties, allowing the practice to continue.

Kalpana C, a resident of Vijayanagar Assembly constituency, said that banners have begun to spring up in her locality.

She didn't mind them for now, as her neighbourhood is fairly quaint and does not receive enough vehicles to cause caution. However, she wondered what would happen when they were taken down.

"The banners are not disposed of correctly and tend to become a garbage menace when they are taken down. It will be an additional burden on our pourakarmikas," she said.

On the other hand, many noted that banners can be spotted significantly less compared to that of previous years and said that it may be due to changes in campaigning strategies, which have mostly shifted to the online arena, and not because the municipal body has upgraded its enforcement.

> **"Banners that are not disposed of correctly, tend to become a garbage menace and an additional burden on pourakarmikas**
>
> –Kalpana C, Vijaynagar resident

IN BRIEF

With son in hospital, Deve Gowda hits campaign trail

In the absence of his son HD Kumaraswamy who has been hospitalised with exhaustion symptoms, JD(S) leader and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda has taken up full fledged election campaigning at the age of 89 years in Karnataka against the doctors' advice.

Kumaraswamy has been hospitalised with exhaustion symptoms following a hectic campaigning schedule. He took up the challenge against the campaigning blitzkrieg of two national parties single-handedly. He is strategising for the party from the hospital.

To make up for the absence of his son at the crucial juncture,

On Monday, JD(S) supremo will campaign in Sira, Koratagere, Madhugiri cities in Tumakuru that has 11 Assembly seats

Deve Gowda, who is not physically fit to take up campaigning, has decided to pitch in for the party.

On Monday, he will campaign in Sira, Koratagere, Madhugiri cities in Tumakuru district which has 11 Assembly seats and is considered a stronghold of JD(S). Deve Gowda will reach Mysuru district on Tuesday and campaign for the party in Piriyapatna, Hunsur, KR Nagara towns.

As Deve Gowda is taking up campaigning against the advice of doctors, a team of medical experts are also following him. Deve Gowda had campaigned in Padmanabhanagar constituency in Bengaluru on Sunday. He was brought on a wheel-chair for the recently-held public rally of JD(S) and is attracting huge crowds and his appeals to see JD(S) in power for the last time are finding traction among masses in Vokkaliga heartland. **IANS**

POLL WRAP WHAT IS KARNATAKA UP TO?

Any electoral complaints? Just call this number

The Bengaluru Urban District District has taken steps to address electoral irregularities in the Bengaluru South Legislative Assembly Constituency. Observers have been appointed, and the public is encouraged to report any complaints related to the electoral process through telephone. Raju Narayan Swamy IAS will serve as the Election General Observer and can be reached at 6366703299. Additionally, Abhishek Anand IRS will serve as the Election Expense Watcher and can be contacted at 6366874469. If you have any concerns or complaints regarding electoral irregularities, please contact the respective observers, said a press release. **BMB**

FIR lodged against National Youth Congress President

An FIR has been lodged against National Youth Congress President BV Srinivas at the Vidhana Soudha police station in Bengaluru in connection with obstructing the duty of election officers, police said on Monday.

According to the police, Srinivas obstructed election officers when they were conducting search and inspection at the time of a meeting held by him at a hotel on April 23 in Bengaluru. Srinivas allegedly did not cooperate with the officials and got into an argument with them.

Sources said that an Assam Police team had arrived in Bengaluru in search of Srinivas in connection with harassment charges against him. Since they did not get him, they had posted the notice to the door of his residence asking him to appear before them, police said. Srinivas made into national news following harassment allegations by Assam Youth Congress Chief Angkita Dutta.

The party has expelled Dutta for anti-party activities for six years. The BJP has slammed the move by the Congress " **IANS**

Vote for JD(S) is like vote for Cong, says Shah in Hassan

Taking on JD(S) in their home turf of Hassan district, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday told the people that voting for the regional party means backing the Congress, as he appealed them to choose BJP in the May 10 Assembly polls in Karnataka.

He urged the voters to ensure that BJP candidates win and thereby strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "You made JD(S) win in the last election, but what happened at the end, they sat along with Congress. So voting for JD(S) means voting for Congress. Do you want to vote for Congress?" Shah asked. Addressing the gathering after a mega road show here, he said, "If you don't want your votes to go failed, cast it directly to BJP and our candidates." Noting that BJP has only one seat in Hassan district, Shah said Preetham Gowda has done a good job against the "dynasts". **PTI**

Man pees on co-passenger in flight, held
An Indian man travelling from New York to Delhi in an American Airlines flight has been apprehended at the airport here for allegedly urinating on his co-passenger, official sources said Monday

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Ladakh standoff: India, China to work it out

But no indication of clear way forward in ending border row during military talks

#NEW DELHI

India and China agreed during their military talks on Sunday to stay in close touch and work out a mutually acceptable solution to the "remaining issues" in eastern Ladakh at the earliest, but there was no indication of clear forward movement in ending their three-year-long border standoff.

The 18th round of the Corps Commander-level talks took place days ahead of Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu's planned visit to India to attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on April 27 and 28.

In a statement on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the two sides had a "frank and in-depth" discussion on the resolution of the "relevant" issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western sector.

"The two sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," the MEA said. The talks were held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side of the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

"The two sides had a frank and in-depth discussion on the resolution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western sector so as to restore peace and tranquillity in the border areas, which will enable progress in bilateral relations," the MEA said. "In line with the guidance provided by the state leaders and further to the meeting between the two foreign ministers in March 2023, they had an exchange of views in an open and candid manner," it added. "In the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western Sector." The government refers to eastern Ladakh as Western sector.

People familiar with the talks said the Indian side insisted on resolving the issues at the remaining friction points of Demchok and Depsang in eastern Ladakh as soon as possible.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said in Beijing that the two sides held an in-depth exchange of views on expediting the resolution of relevant issues.

"According to the important common understanding of the leaders of both countries, the two sides held an in-depth exchange of views on expediting the resolution of relevant issues. I refer you to the competent authorities for more details," Mao Ning said. **–PTI**

An Indian army convoy carrying reinforcements and supplies, drive towards Leh, on a highway bordering China, in Gagangir (file photo)

Sudan: Operation Kaveri to bring back Indians

#NEW DELHI

Around 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan and more on their way home; India has positioned two aircraft at Jeddah and a ship at key port

About 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan under Operation Kaveri that has begun to evacuate nationals from the crisis-torn Sudan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday.

"Operation Kaveri gets underway to bring back our citizens stranded in Sudan. About 500 Indians have reached Port Sudan. More on their way," Jaishankar tweeted.

"Our ships and aircraft are set to bring them back home. Committed to assist all our brethren in Sudan," he said.

India has positioned two heavy-lift military transport aircraft in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah and a naval ship at a key port in violence-hit Sudan as part of its contingency plans to evacuate its stranded nationals.

The development comes even as France and Saudi Arabia have evacuated some Indians along with citizens of other countries as part of their evacuation mission from Sudan.

Around 3,000 Indians are among the stranded foreign nationals, and a 48-year-old from Kerala, Albert Augustine, has been killed by a stray bullet.

Violent clashes that erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces on April 15, continues unabated. According to Sudan's Health Ministry, the violence has left at least 424 people dead and about 3,730 wounded. **–IANS**

Poonch terror attack: 40+ detained for probe

#POONCH/JAMMU

More than 40 persons have been detained for questioning as part of a massive operation currently underway to track down the terrorists involved in the Poonch terror attack, officials said on Monday.

Additional troops have been inducted to further intensify the cordon-and-search operation (CASO) in Bhata Dhurian-Tota Gali and neighbouring areas. As the operation entered fourth day on Monday with engagement of multiple security agencies, the entire belt is put under cordon, they said.

Five Army personnel were killed and a sixth was seriously injured when their vehicle caught fire during a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch on Thursday.

According to the investigation, the terrorists likely hid in a culvert on a stretch of the Bhimber Gali-Poonch road before they attacked the truck that was carrying army jawans, officials said.

Security personnel stand guard at a police blockade near the site of the terror attack (file)

A sniper is believed to have targeted the army truck from front before his associates showered bullets and lobbed grenades at it from opposite sides, apparently giving the troops no time to retaliate, they added. "Terrorists used steel core bullets that can penetrate an armoured shield," officials said, adding, "before fleeing, the terrorists also stole soldiers' arms and ammunition." The armoured vehicle was found riddled with more than 50 bullet marks, they said.

SC closes contempt case against Lalit Modi after apology

#NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday closed the contempt proceedings against former IPL chairman Lalit Modi for making contemptuous remarks against the Indian judiciary after he tendered an unconditional apology.

A bench of Justice MR Shah and CR Ravikumar directed Modi to desist from any such activity to tarnish the image of the judiciary.

The Court always believes in forgiveness when an apology is tendered unconditionally and with a broad heart, Justice Shah said while accepting his apology.

The apex court warned Modi that any such attempt to tarnish the judiciary would be taken "very seriously". "We accept the unconditional apology. We remind the respondent (Modi) that any such attempt on his part in future, which would be tantamount to remotely tarnishing the image of the Indian judiciary and courts, will be seen seriously. We accept the unconditional apology with a broad heart because the court always believes in forgiveness more particularly when an apology is tendered unconditionally and from the heart," the bench stated. **–PTI**

Death of cheetahs: MP forest dept has 'alternate site' plea

#BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh forest department has asked the Centre for an "alternate" site for cheetahs currently introduced at the Kuno National Park, which has seen the death of two felines in less than a month, with officials citing lack of logistical support and space.

A senior state forest official on condition of anonymity said they do not have enough logistical support for the upkeep for the cheetahs, brought in two batches of 8 and 12 felines from Namibia and South Africa respectively since September last year.

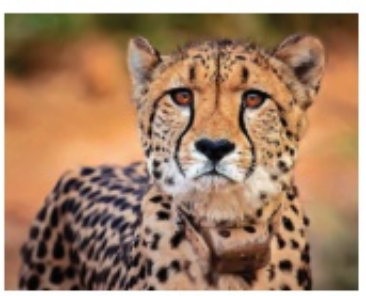
"We need nine staffers to keep an eye on one cheetah round-the-clock. We don't have enough hands," the official told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Asked about the space shortage, the official said it was secondary and added that "not just space, we need a lot of logistics."

Notably, before the cheetahs were imported, some experts had raised doubt over the space shortage likely to affect the cheetah reintroduction project at the Kuno National Park (KNP), which has a core area of 748 sq km and buffer zone of 487 sq km.

On Sunday, the KNP witnessed a second cheetah fatality in less than a month as a six-year-old male feline named Uday, translocated from South Africa in February, died.

The exact cause of the feline's death is not identified yet, an official earlier said.



Two cheetahs died in less than a month at the Kuno National Park

The incident is seen as a major setback for the ambitious 'Project Cheetah' under which 20 felines were translocated to KNP in Sheopur district from Namibia and South Africa in separate batches in September 2022 and February this year.

One of the eight Namibian cheetahs, Sasha, aged more than four-and-a-half-years, died of a kidney ailment at KNP on March 27.

Another cheetah, named Siyaya, recently gave birth to four cubs in KNP. Besides, cheetah Oban, now renamed Pavan, has strayed out of the KNP multiple times.

MP Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) JS Chauhan told PTI that his department has written a letter to the National Tiger Conservation (NTCA), overseeing the world's fastest animal's reintroduction project in India, requesting for an alternate place for the cheetahs.

"We wrote the letter a couple of days ago," he said.

The letter has sought that the Centre take a decision on the alternate site, as per forest officials.

"If we start developing our sites like the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary or the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary in MP as alternate sites, it will take two years and three years respectively," an official said.

Months before the cheetahs were brought to India, a risk management plan was drafted stating a "contingency plan" is in the process of being put in place for dealing with serial escapees. **PTI**

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KEEP YOUR COOL

Heatwave dos and don'ts. Tips to cool yourself this summer

A heatwave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the summer season, according to National Disaster Management Authority.

Heatwaves typically occur between March and June, and in some rare cases even extend till July. As of now, schools have been closed in Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal due to heat wave conditions. In northern states, the temperature is soaring but there is respite due to Western disturbances from time to time. Heat waves affect the Northern states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan generally in the month of May and June.

While talking to ANI, Senior Consultant Physician & Endocrinologist from Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital Dr Sharwari Dabhade Dua, said, "A steady rise in temperature and environmental changes has led to very hot and humid summers since past few years. This rise is only getting worse with coming years."

"Our body has the ability to maintain the temperature via dissipation of heat, in the form of perspiration. However, extreme heat and humidity affect this acclimatisation leading to heat stroke," Dr Dua added.

"Certain pre-existing conditions like high blood pressure, heart failure, obesity, diabetes, and kidney disease can cause a higher risk of heat stroke. Children and old age people get affected more. In such cases, adequate hydration with electrolytes like sodium and proper air conditioning is advised to cool the body temperature. Minor symptoms need to be watched before they get severe. Immediate hospitalisation is advised in case of loss of consciousness, chest pain, decreased urination and severe fatigue," Dr Dua further stated.

Meanwhile, the Director of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital (LNJP) Hospital, Dr Suresh Kumar said, "These days the temperature is reaching near 40 degrees and when the temperature crosses or is near 40 degrees. There is a lack of water in the body which is called dehydration. It is important that we take as much liquid as possible, like coconut water, juice, lassi, and more water etc."

"Whenever you are going out of the house these days, keep a water bottle with you, as well as keep your head covered while going in the sun. And try not to stay in the Sun for too long as it can lead to dehydration. Also, it can cause problems like heat stroke, and dizziness," Dr Kumar further said.

"Due to lack of water in the body, sweating stops and there is a deficiency of sodium, potassium etc. in the body, which affects our brain and heart," the doctor added.

To minimise the impact during the heatwave and to prevent serious ailment or death because of heat stroke, you can take the following measures:

- Avoid going out in the sun, especially between 12.00 noon and 3.00 p.m.
- Drink sufficient water as often as possible, even if not thirsty
- Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose, and porous cotton clothes. Use protective goggles, an umbrella/hat, shoes or chappals while going out in sun.
- Avoid strenuous activities when the outside temperature is high. Avoid working outside between 12 noon and 3 p.m.
- While travelling, carry water with you.
- Avoid alcohol, tea, coffee and carbonated soft drinks, which dehydrate the body.
- Avoid high-protein food and do not eat stale food.
- If you work outside, use a hat or an umbrella and also use a damp cloth on your head, neck, face and limbs.
- Do not leave children or pets in parked vehicles.
- If you feel faint or ill, see a doctor immediately.
- Use ORS, homemade drinks like lassi, torani (rice water), lemon water, buttermilk, etc. which help to rehydrate the body.
- Keep animals in shade and give them plenty of water to drink.
- Keep your home cool, use curtains, shutters or sunshades and open windows at night.
- Use fans, damp clothing and take bath in cold water frequently.
- The extreme temperatures and resultant atmospheric conditions adversely affect people living in these regions as they cause physiological stress, sometimes resulting in death, according to National Disaster Management Authority.

The health impacts of heatwaves typically involve dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke. The signs and symptoms are as follows:

Heat Cramps: Ederna (swelling) and Syncope (Fainting) are generally accompanied by fever below 39 degrees Celcius.

Heat Exhaustion: Fatigue, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps and sweating.

Heat Stoke: Body temperatures of 40 degrees Celcius or more along with delirium, seizures or coma. This is a potentially fatal condition.

Heatwave conditions can result in physiological strain, which could even be fatal.

Hot fuzz

30 SPF 30 or above is best suited for Indian summers as it offers protection for a longer period of time. It should be applied around 30 minutes before you are stepping out.

40 A heat stroke happens if the body temperature rises to 40 degree or above in 10-15 minutes. Staying hydrated, and in the shade if outdoors, wearing loose and summery outfits will prevent heat strokes.

3 Doctors recommend a minimum of 3 litres of water each day to stay hydrated. As you sweat a lot in this season, keep sipping on water or juice.

12 As a general thumb rule, avoid moving about in the sun from 12 - 3 pm. If you really must, carry an umbrella or wear a hat/cap.

All you need to know about...

Heart block

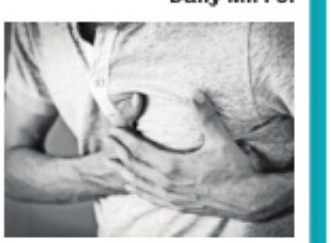
What is it?
This is when the electrical impulses that control the beating of the heart muscle are disrupted and the heart beats more slowly or with an abnormal rhythm.

What are the symptoms?
Symptoms depend on how bad the heart block is.
¦ First-degree heart block is symptomless. Usually people only find out they have it when being tested for something else.
¦ Second-degree heart block Type 1 of second-degree heart block may not cause any symptoms either. You may feel light-headed, dizzy or faint.
Type 2 heart block symptoms, which are more serious, can include chest pain, shortness of breath, and feeling dizzy when standing up suddenly.
¦ Third-degree (complete) heart block Symptoms include feeling faint, shortness of breath, extreme tiredness, sometimes with confusion and chest pain.
Get emergency care if your symptoms are severe or come on very quickly.

What are the causes?
Heart block usually develops later in life and can be caused by other heart conditions, such as coronary artery disease, a heart attack, and some prescription medicines. Other conditions include Lyme disease and having heart surgery.

What are the treatments?
Heart block normally only needs to be treated if it is causing symptoms.
Depending on the cause of the heart block and how you feel day-to-day, you might need to have a pacemaker fitted.
This works by sending steady electrical pulses to your heart to keep it beating regularly.

—Dr Miriam Stoppard, Daily Mirror



Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$\sqrt[3]{(-(4! + 3!!)} + 5!!/5 =$

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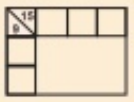
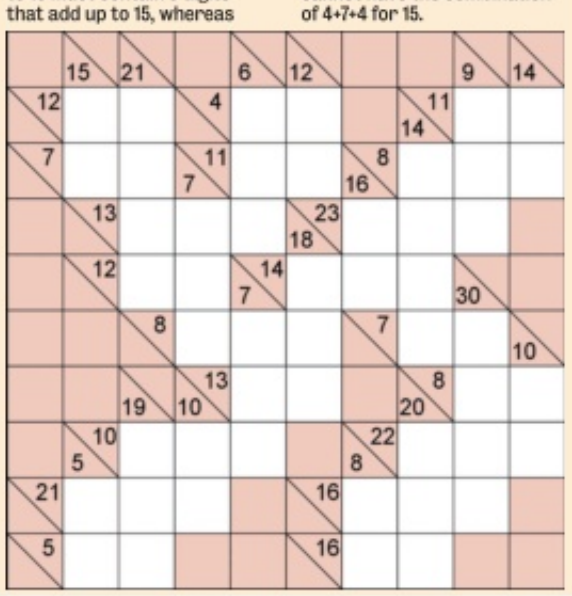
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

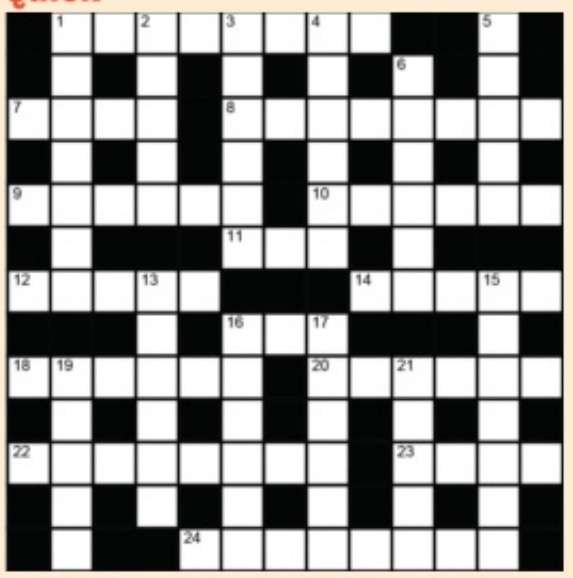


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Making or becoming broader (8)
7 Norse god (4)
8 Betting (8)
9 Nicosia is its capital (6)
10 Stalked (6)
11 Time To Station, abbr. (3)
12 Complaint (5)
14 Shrek and his kin (5)
16 Scrap of cloth (3)
18 A pair; two (6)
20 Long narrow strip (6)
22 Inhabited (8)
23 Donated (4)
24 Interfering types? (8)

DOWN

1 Dynasty which ruled the Kingdom of Mysore from 1399 to 1947 (7)
2 Currency of Algeria (5)
3 Absolutely latest? (6)
4 Periods of darkness (6)
5 Trump's VP (5)
6 Difficult, annoying (6)
13 Child's noisy fire-arm? (3-3)
15 Derives, develops or matures (7)
16 Refresh or recover (6)
17 Evaluated, marked or rated (6)
19 Academy award (5)
21 Brass instrument (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS H

G DKJKUZSQT SM REK YNR SM CERYE QR BGET FKZMREM NK SM XJGO NK ORKME'Q CERY.

Linemaro

You look cold. Want to use me as a blanket?

Mindchow

It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge

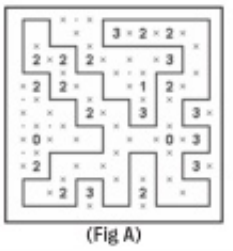
Joke of the day

When you're driving, anyone going slower than you is an idiot and anyone driving faster is a maniac

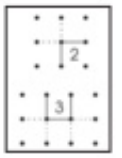
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

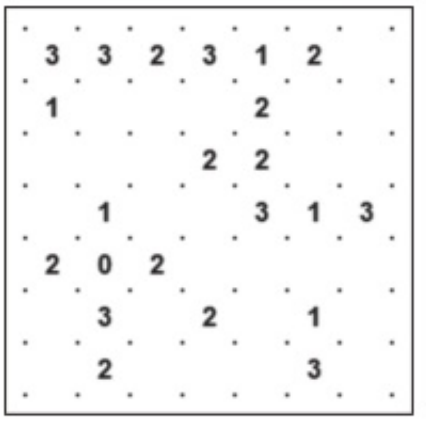


(Fig B) Not Allowed

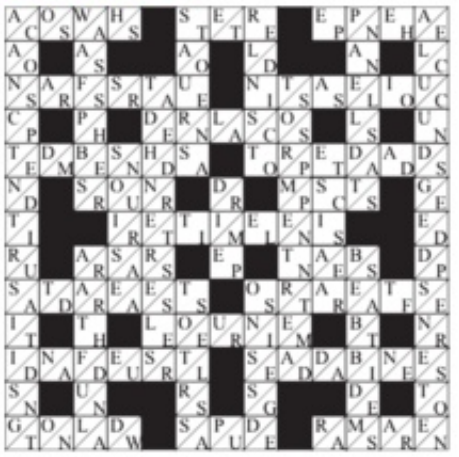
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2 F	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

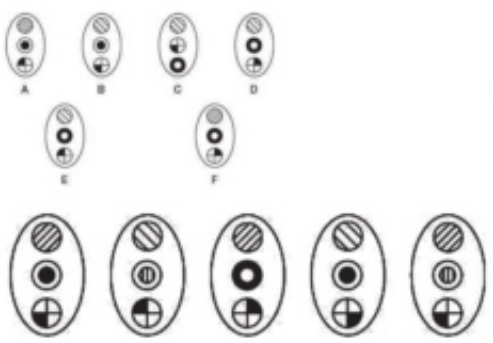
1 To Oaf; 6 Pa pop; 7 Rent I; 8 Taped; 9 Dunes

DOWN

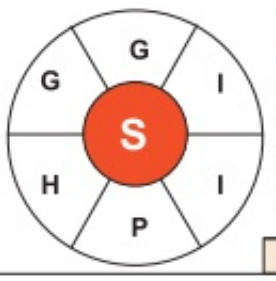
1 A pain; 2 Found; 3 Toped; 4 O peep; 5 Start

Mensapuzzle

What comes next in the above sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	1						3	
		2	5		6	1		
3			1	7	9			4
8		1				5		9
			4		3			
4		7				3		1
1			3	6	4			5
		4	7		5	6		
	6						8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2
1 3 4 6

Medium = 7
1 2 2 3

Hard = 11
3 4 6 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Telephone pole is moved. 2. Window is smaller. 3. Awning is different. 4. Hair is shorter. 5. Buttons are added. 6. Collar is missing.

Riddler

The strangest creature you will find: Two eyes in front and many more behind. What?

Alpha triangle

1 Direction in short
2 Neon for the chemist
3 Web
4 Bird's__ soup
5 Work for a body shop
6 Became taut
7 Trip to a mine

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

THANKS VERY MUCH FOR THAT UPDATE AND, PLEASE, BE SAFE OUT THERE!
The Weather Channel
TRACKING GARY
IF YOU'RE SO $%#&*%! WORRIED ABOUT ME, WHY WON'T YOU LET ME COME INSIDE!?

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find suitable matches. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff are likely to support you.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today your subordinate staff may be cooperative, it may help you to complete postponed projects. You are likely to join some social event, which may boost your network, it may help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go for an outing with friends. Some disputes with friends may be settled now. Students are advised to avoid carelessness.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel dull due to sleeplessness; you may be scattered towards your goals, which may affect your working efficiency. You may plan to visit some religious place. But in the late evening, you may be blessed by your elders; you may find out your mistakes and make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parent's health.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today your communication skills may help you in terms of professional front. You are likely to be more polite with everyone around you, which may help you to speed up your projects. Love birds are likely to exchange their views with each other, which may make some foundation of their relationship.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. New partnerships may give you benefits. Your energy level is likely to be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay you off in terms of financial gains. Self respect may protect you from negative people around you.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dullness and unhappiness. You are advised to avoid harsh conversation with friends and family members. You may also not be able to get proper reciprocation of your hard work. Need to follow your intuition. Advised to keep patience while taking some important decisions.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today new sources of income are likely to be opened. Your past investments may give you a good profit, which will boost your bank balance. You are likely to connect with a social organisation, which will increase your network. Singles may find a soul mate in terms of marriage. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be in a hurry. You are advised to drive safely. But with the blessing of the elders, you may come out from the messy situation. You may expect to handle many things together, where your patience may help you to get success. You may expect some positive results in new partnerships. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments. Job seekers may find suitable jobs.

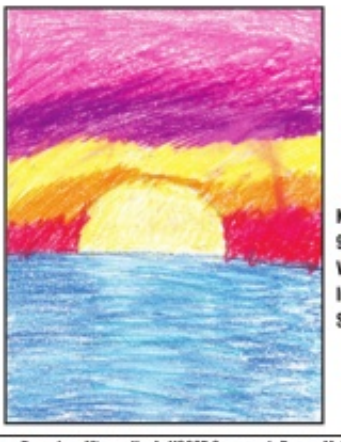
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today's blessing from the elders may make you confident. You can follow your intuition before taking any initiatives, which may help you at work. Your intuition may help to gain more in terms of finance. You are likely to visit some religious place with your family members. You must control your arrogance to enjoy your domestic life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may expect some instant gains in your business, which may boost your confidence level as well as bank balance. It is advised to avoid stress in domestic life. There would be some momentum at the business and work front. Your prestige may be increased. You may also plan for an overseas trip.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today things would not be favourable. You may feel dull and unhappy. Some mysterious fear may make you upset. You are likely to be attracted to the occult. You may feel a lack of confidence, which may affect your work. It is to avoid rash driving and risky adventure tours.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be able to make a balance between your earnings and expenses, which may boost your bank balance. You are likely to perform better in your job. Your boss can give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You may get back your money which was stuck. You may be able to control your opponents and hidden enemies.

KIDZONE



Kaveri Sriram, 9 years, Valistus International School

Nainikaa N Vaghme, 8 years, Insight Academy

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$\sqrt{(-(24+3)+15/5}=$
$\sqrt{(-(27)+3}=$
$\sqrt{-27}+3=$
$-3+3=0$

QUOTE UNCODE
A celebrity is one who is known to many persons he is glad he doesn't know.

FAST FIVE

A	F	O	O	T
P	O	P	P	A
I	N	T	E	R
A	D	E	P	T
N	U	D	E	S

RIDDLER Iposaed v

BULL'S EYE
PIGGISH, ship, sign

STRIKE OUT

C	O	W	S	T	E	E	E	P	H	A	C			
O	A	S	A	U	D	A	L	I	T	A	L	I	C	
N	S	A	U	I	T	A	L	I	C					
O	A	O	D	A	C	O	L	U						
N	S	A	U	I	T	A	L	I	C					
E	M	E	N	D	S	T	R	E	A	D	S			
N	R	L	R	M	S	S								
T	R	E	I	L	E	S								
R	A	S	S	P	N	A	B	P						
A	T	R	E	S	T	R	A	F	E					
P	I	R	A	T	E	S								
I	N	F	E	S	T	E	D	D	I	E	S			
T	I	E	R	I	E	R	B	R						
A	T	R	E	S	T	R	A	F	E					
G	O	L	D	A	P	E	A	S	A	S	A	N		

QUICK

														P
				M	E	D	O	L	E	R	S			R
														A
				N										E
O	C	C	U	P	I	E	D		G	A	V	E		
S		O		V		A		U		L				
C	O	U	P	L	E		R	I	D	E		O	N	
		O			R	A	G					V		
G	R	I	P	E				O	G	R	E	S		
		A					T	T	S					
		N												
C	Y	P	R	U	S		T	A	I	L	E	D		
I		A												
O	I	N		W	A	G	E	R	I	N	G			
A	I		E	I		T		E						

MENSA PUZZLE
E: the sequence appears looking across each row of circles in the ellipses. The top row alternates right-sloping stripes, left-sloping stripes etc, the middle row is repeating and in the bottom row, the black segment is moving one segment clockwise at each stage

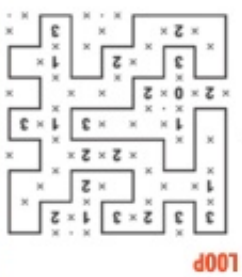
SUDOKU

5	6	3	2	9	1	4	8	7
2	9	4	7	8	5	6	1	3
1	7	8	3	6	4	9	2	5
4	2	7	9	5	8	3	6	1
6	5	9	4	1	3	8	7	2
8	3	1	6	2	7	5	4	9
3	8	6	1	7	9	2	5	4
7	4	2	5	3	6	1	9	8
9	1	5	8	4	2	7	3	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, Ne, Net, Nest, Dents, Tensed, Descent.

GO FIGURE
Easy
$3+4-6+1=2$
Medium
$2\times2\times1+3=7$
Hard
$4+4+6-3=11$

LOOP



KAKURO

Volume No 15, Issue No 216 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Relief for Chetan In a temporary relief to Kannada actor and activist Chetan Kumar Ahimsa, the Karnataka High Court stayed an earlier order of the Central government on the cancellation of his Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) status

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Accent mark

Netizens seem to be harsh critics of most things, including accents

Actress Samantha was the latest Indian star to get trolled online after some netizens thought she faked an accent while talking to foreign press at the London premiere of Citadel. Take a look at the other actors who were viciously trolled for allegedly faking their accents while abroad. — ETimes

Jr NTR

While actor Jr NTR was out at Hollywood's biggest award shows receiving accolades for his film 'RRR', back home the actor was being trolled for allegedly faking an accent. The trolling didn't escape the actor's attention and he made it a point to address the same. During an interview, he indirectly touched upon the discussion of his 'fake' accent. He said, "We are just divided by time zones and a little bit of an accent. Other than that, what an actor goes through in the West is exactly the same process as in the East."

Samantha

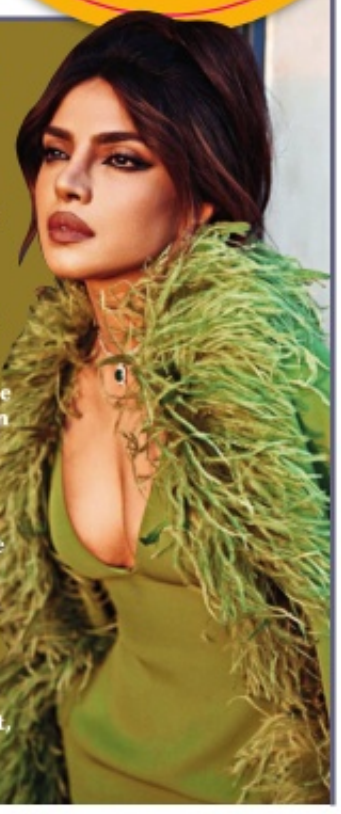
Samantha Ruth Prabhu, made heads turn at the London premiere of Citadel. The actress had all eyes on her when she hit the red carpet as the leading lady of the Indian instalment of the global spy franchise. A video from the event went viral after Twitterati began trolling the actress for allegedly faking an accent while talking to the foreign press. "What's with these Indian actors? When they travel to the US, why does a different accent kick in? (sic)," read a post. Samantha has not yet reacted to the criticism.

Aiswarya Rai Bachchan

Even Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was not spared from trolls who called her a 'wannabe' and 'fake' when she hit the Cannes red carpet as the India face of a beauty brand. Videos of the actress interacting with the press and her many celebrity friends came under scrutiny by netizens who claimed that she was faking an accent while abroad.

Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka Chopra has often been trolled for faking an American accent for her Hollywood films and television shows. Back in the day when the actress made her Hollywood debut in Baywatch, she was the butt of social media jokes for putting on a thick accent even while appearing on television shows. Talk show host Seth Meyers got the actress talking about her accent when he said, "Obviously on the show you have an American accent, but what we're hearing now is put on. It's a fraud." To this, Priyanka admitted, "This is my fake accent, my Indian accent I know."



Ram Charan

While out on the Oscar and Golden Globes red carpet, Ram Charan met and interacted with members of the foreign press. However, his Indian fans weren't too impressed with the actor's English accent. Some went as far as trolling him for allegedly faking an accent while on the global stage.

Gal doing great job, says Ana

Blonde' star Ana de Armas was asked if she was going to take over the Wonder Woman role as Peter Safran and James Gunn look to reinvent the DC Universe.

As reported by Deadline, "Well, I feel like Gal Gadot is doing a great job," De Armas said in the interview. "I think she should keep doing that."

Gal Gadot recently reprised her role of Diana Prince in 'Shazam! Fury of the Gods'. However, Gadot's future in the role is uncertain after the third installment of Patty Jenkins' 'Wonder Woman' was scrapped.

After the news of the new 'Wonder Woman' being scrapped emerged, Jenkins released a statement saying, "I never walked away. I was open to considering anything asked of me. It was my understanding there was nothing I could do to move anything forward at this time. DC is obviously buried in changes they are having to make, so I understand these decisions are difficult right now."

As of now, the future of 'Wonder Woman' remains uncertain. Safran and Gunn are in the process of reinventing the DC Universe with a new Superman that will kick in a new era when 'Superman: Legacy' drops in theatres in 2025.

Meanwhile, Ana de Armas paid homage to her Cuban roots during her "Saturday Night Live" debut hosting performance recently, greeting the audience in Spanish. — ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

In absentia

Arrangements are on for the release of Present Prapancha Zero Percent Love. The movie is being released in the absence of its director Abhiram A and hero Arjun Manjunath who died during the pandemic. While Arjun passed away on April 19, 2021, Abhiram passed away on May 28, 2021.

The soundtrack of the film was released at Renukamba Preview Theater on Wednesday. Karnataka Film Chambers of Commerce president Ba Ma Harish was the chief guest. "This movie was very close to director Abhiram but he passed away before its release. Arjun also passed away due to coronavirus. Both were with us till the completion of the shooting and dubbing. We managed to complete the post-production work with the help of Yashas Abhi who plays the second hero. The absence of Arjun and Abhiram is haunting us," said KL Krishnamurthy, one of the producers.

Krishnamurthy and Ravikumar have bankrolled this movie in association with Nagaraj Hosalli and Devaraj.

Thanking the producers for completing the post-production work, Yashas said the movie aims to convey a message to society on the importance of love.

"I am sure audiences, who come to the theaters, will go home with 100 percent love," said Yashas.

Honoured abroad

Pawan Wadeyar, who bankrolled national award winning Kannada movie Dollu, along with his better half Apeksha Purohit under the banner of Wadeyar Movies, was honoured in Dubai by non-resident Kannadigas recently. The non-resident Kannadigas in Dubai have formed Team Supreme, an organisation to recognise good movies.

"I am very happy to get this honour. They felicitated me in recognition of my contribution to Kannada movies. I will release my movies in Dubai in future," said Pawan Wadeyar.

He said the non-resident Kannadigas in Dubai also felicitated dialogue writer Maasthi Upparahalli. Both have launched the logo of the IIMF (Indian International Movies Federation) and wished the Supreme Team all the best.

"Most Kannadigas in Dubai have already watched Dollu as it is available on OTT platform," he said.

The movie Dollu was helmed by Sagar Puranik. Pawan Wadeyar directed Kannada movies such as Govindaya Namaha, Googly, Rana Vikrama, and Nata Sarvabhouma.